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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman following informal consultations

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The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/211 C of 18 December 1996 on the pattern of conferences,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on access to the optical disk system,[1]

Taking into account that only publicly available official documents, publications and public texts of the United Nations are stored on the optical disk system,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts to improve access to the optical disk system,

1. Encourages the Secretary-General to develop a policy for the further expansion of the optical disk system of the United Nations, including provisions for making it available on a fee-for-service basis to any interested party, on the understanding that access will continue to be provided free of charge to permanent and observer missions and other government offices of Member States, with a maximum of ten access passwords for each Member State, as well as provisions for making it available to all staff of the Secretariat;

[1] A/C.5/51/56.

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in developing such a policy, to take into account the special needs of developing countries and of other special groups of potential users;

3. Calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the ease of access to and the flow of information from the optical disk system to end-users, especially in capitals, is both continuous and uninterrupted;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue work on providing access to the optical disk system in the six official languages of the United Nations on an equal basis;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on that policy to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session.